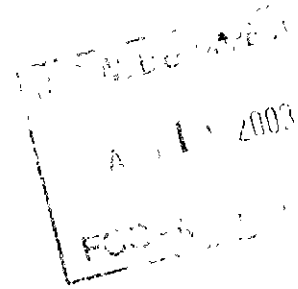




Office of the Sheriff  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
23328



JOHN R. NEWHART  
SHERIFF

CLAUDE A. STAFFORD, JR.  
UNDERSHERIFF

DAVID C. NEWBY  
CHIEF DEPUTY

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August 1, 2003

Marlene H Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re Docket 02-55

Dear Ms Dortch,

I would like to express my support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above referenced proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

The Chesapeake Sheriff's Office consists of more than 300 sworn personnel in a 353 square mile city assisting a population of 207, 200. It is not unusual for our personnel to take upwards of one hour to cross the boundaries of our city. Uninterrupted radio communication is critical to our City's needs.

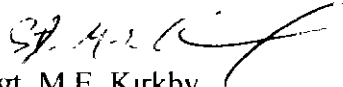
The addition of our new 800 MHz radio system has been of great benefit to our city, our personnel, and our citizens. Interference, however, has been an issue with our system since its installation. Frequent studies of interference occur on an on-going basis and the summary is always the same: proximity of adjacent cellular-band operations in the 800 MHz band.

Acceptance of the "Consensus Plan" will eliminate most interference on these critical public safety systems. This plan will provide additional 800 MHz band channels for public safety, as well as addressing the root cause of interference, not simply providing "a fix". Funding for the implementation of the "Consensus Plan" is provided for as well, with Nextel pledging \$850 million to pay for the costs of frequency shifts.

The FCC may elect, however, to impose an unlimited financial obligation on Nextel to pay all reasonable costs

I understand there is no 100% solution to radio interference, but generally accepted Best Practices must become an additional supportive tool to help the overall situation I hope you will support the "Consensus Plan" as I do

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sgt M E Kirkby", written over the typed name.

Sgt M E Kirkby  
Chesapeake Sheriff's Office  
P O Box 15125  
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Mek/file

City of Chesapeake



Office of the Sheriff  
Post Office Box 15125  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23328-0125



Marlene H Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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